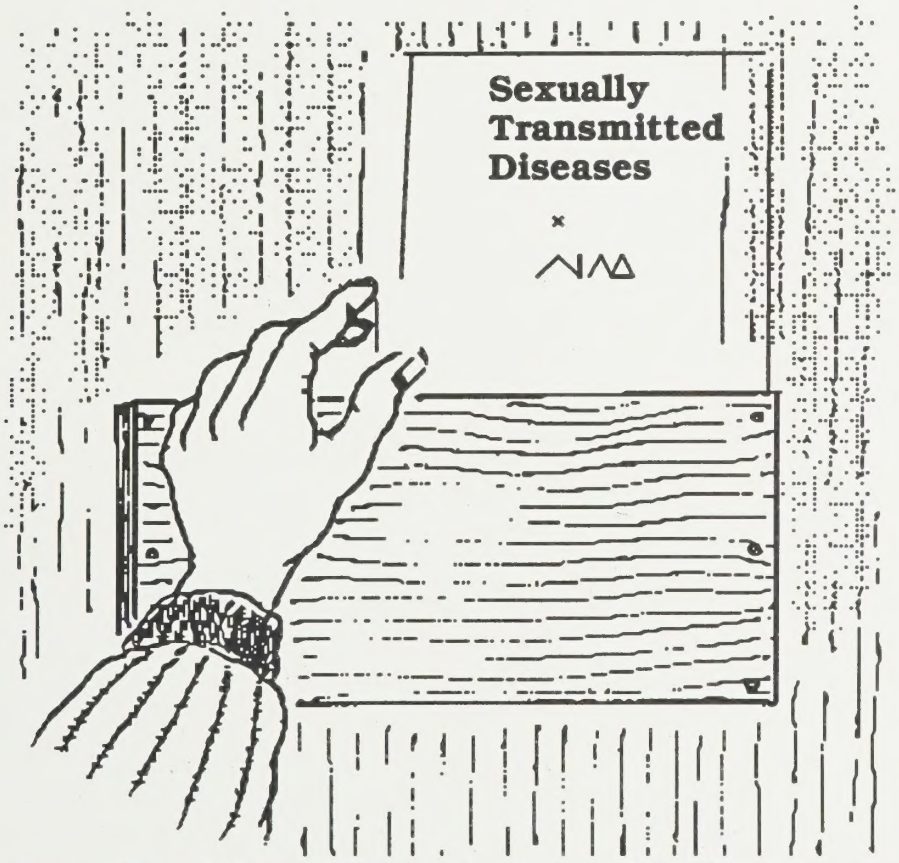
12

Being Sexual: An Illustrated Series On Sexuality and Relationships

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

By Susan Ludwig and David Hingsburger



Translated into Blissymbols by Claudia Wood

Illustrated by James F. Whittingham

BEING SEXUAL: AN ILLUSTRATED SERIES ON SEXUALITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

This 17-book series provides important sexuality education for young adults and adults. The clear, straightforward text and engaging illustrations are particularly helpful for people with developmental disability, problems with literacy, learning or communication, or anyone who uses Blissymbols. The content, philosophy and ideas expressed are those of the authors. Books were reviewed by SIECCAN Board members who are professionally involved in sex education, counselling and therapy and by consumers, parents and educators.

Blissymbolics Communication International (BCI) co-ordinated Blissymbol translation of major portions of each book in the Being Sexual series using approximately 150 recently-developed symbols for sexuality. Claudia Wood translated all books except for volume 4 on Adolescence which was translated by Ruth Harrington and Jinny Storr.

Blissymbols used herein are derived from symbols described in Semantography, original copyright © C.K. Bliss 1949. © Blissymbolics Communication International, 250 Ferrand Drive, Suite 200, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada M3C 3P2. Exclusive licensee 1982.

The series is co-authored by **Dave Hingsburger**, an author and lecturer who has extensive experience as a counsellor and therapist for people with developmental disabilities, and **Susan Ludwig**, a nurse-educator with the Sexual Health Team, York Region Public Health who specializes in sexuality education for people with developmental disabilities. The authors acknowledge the assistance and support of York Region Public Health during the writing phase of the project, the imaginative input of **Claudia Wood**, and the special contribution of **James F. Whittingham** who created over 1200 drawings to illustrate the series.

The first printing of Being Sexual was made possible by funding from:

Blissymbolics Communication International,
Sir Joseph Flavelle Foundation,
Learnxs Foundation,
George Lunan Foundation,
Claudia Wood, and
Health Services and Promotion Branch, Health and Welfare Canada,
through the AIDS Information and Education Contribution Program.

Published by SIECCAN, the Sex Information and Education Council of Canada, 850 Coxwell Avenue, East York, Ontario, Canada M4C 5R1 (416-466-5304; 416-778-0785 FAX). © SIECCAN 1993

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:
Being Sexual: an illustrated series on sexuality and relationships

Translated into Blissymbols by Claudia Wood, Ruth Harrington and Ginny Storr.
Partial contents: v. 12. Sexually transmitted diseases.
ISBN 1-895866-00-6 (set)
ISBN 1-895866-12-X (v. 12)

1. Sex I. Wood, Claudia, 1947- . II. Sieccan

HQ21.B44 1993 306.7 C93-093380-X

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

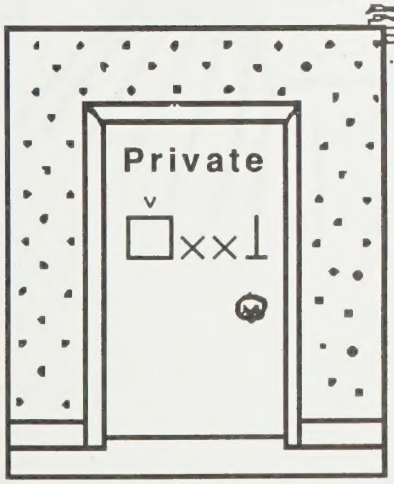
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

×

(illness + sexual + plural indicator)

Deciding to have **sexual intercourse** within a relationship is an **important** step. **Sexual intercourse** can bring two **people** much pleasure and happiness and make them **feel intimate** or closer to each other .

Sexual intercourse is (an) important part of intimacy between two mature people.



Sexual Intercourse

(to combine + genitals)

Pregnancy

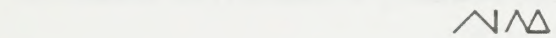
(conception + woman)

Since **sexual intercourse** may result in **pregnancy,** a couple must act responsibly and consider this possibility before deciding to take this **important** step.

Important - sexual intercourse can cause pregnancy.

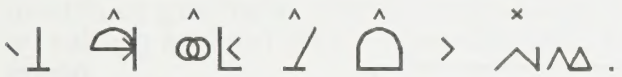
Sexually Transmitted Diseases

×

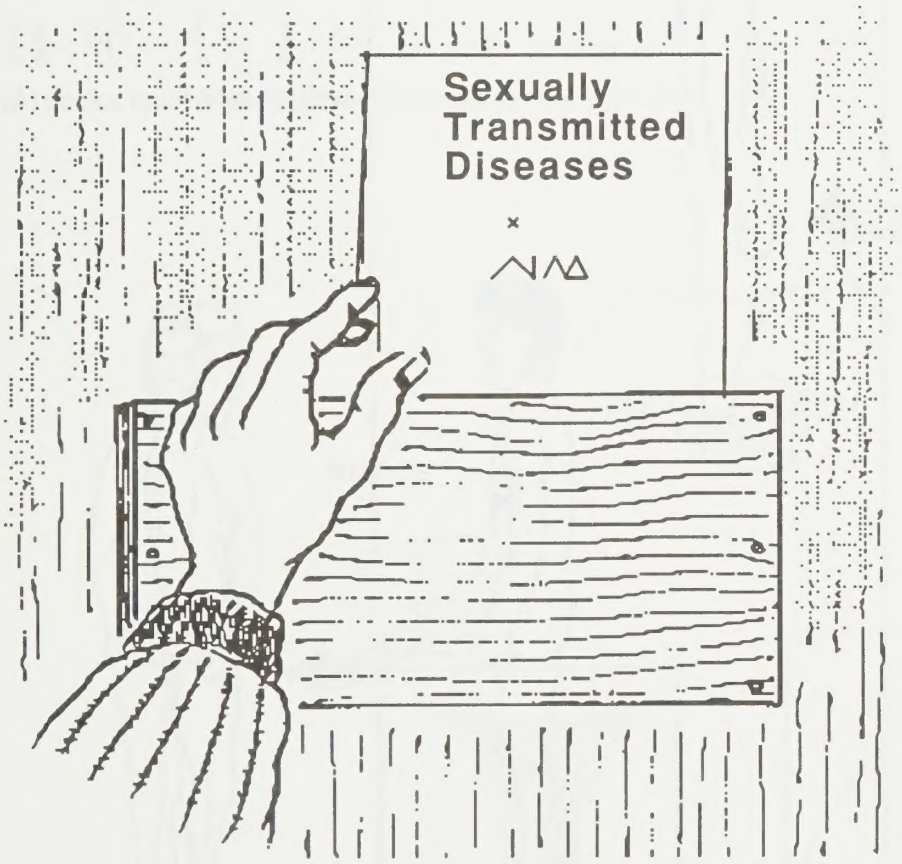


(illness + sexual + plural indicator)

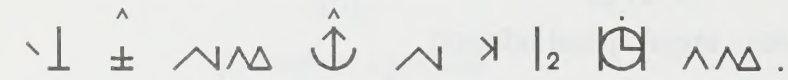
Anyone deciding to have **sexual intercourse** needs to know about the possibility of getting **sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)**.



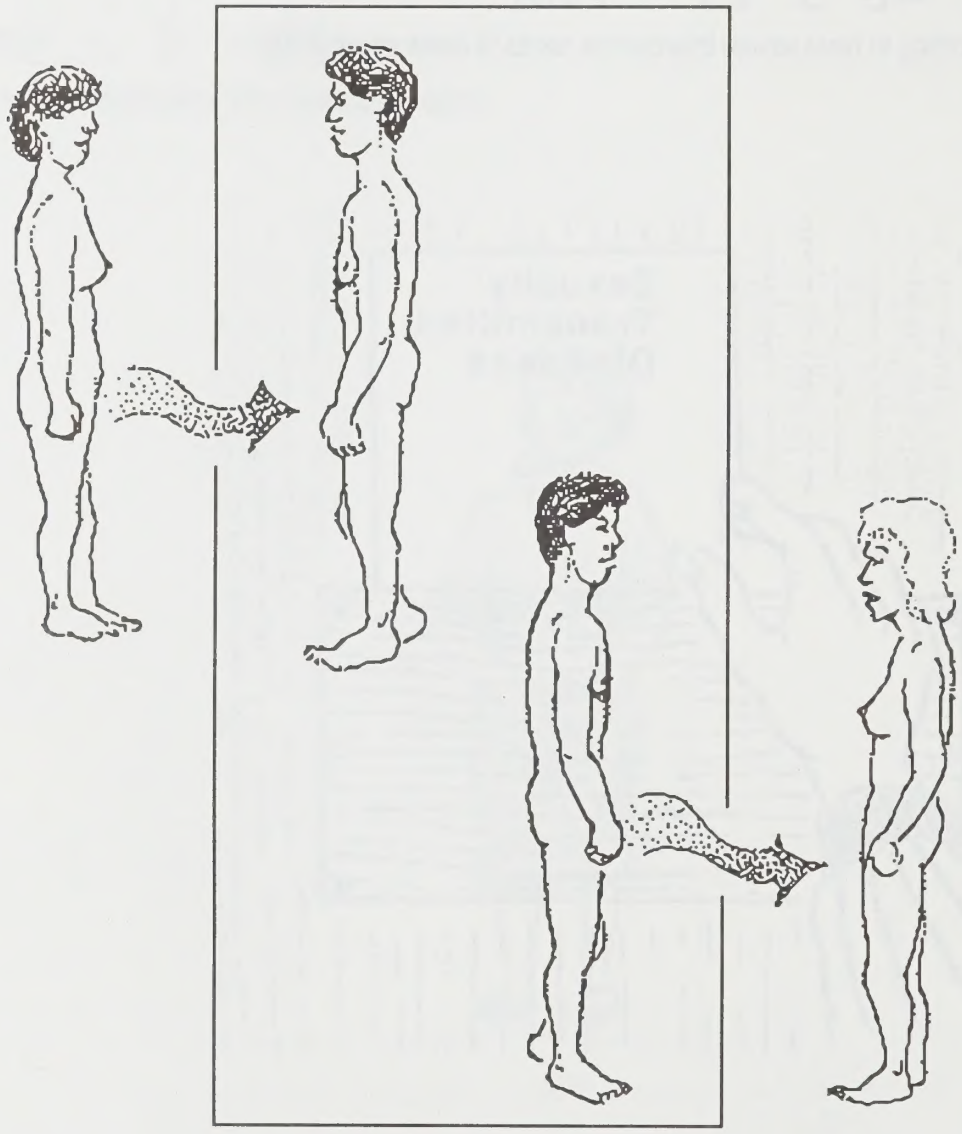
Anyone deciding to have sexual intercourse needs to know about STDs.



Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are **illnesses** which are passed from someone who already has the **disease** to another during **sexual activity**. **Sexual activity** by itself does not cause **sexually transmitted diseases**.



Someone having (an) STD gives (the) disease to another during sexual activity.



Syphilis

(sexually transmitted disease + s)

One common **sexually transmitted disease** is called **syphilis**. **Doctors** have known about **syphilis** for many years. There are many ways to tell if a **person** has **syphilis**, but the most common is the appearance of **sores** on a person's mouth or **genitals**. Fortunately, today a **doctor** can tell a **person** has **syphilis** by taking a blood test. A **person** with **syphilis** must be **treated** in order to be **cured**.

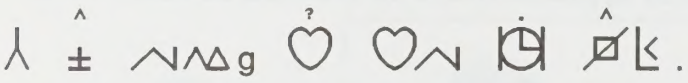
Often syphilis causes sores on (the) mouth or genitals.

(A) doctor must treat (a) person in order to cure syphilis.

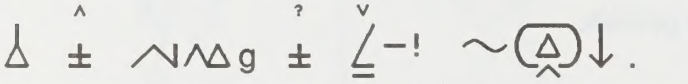
Gonorrhea

(sexually transmitted disease + g)

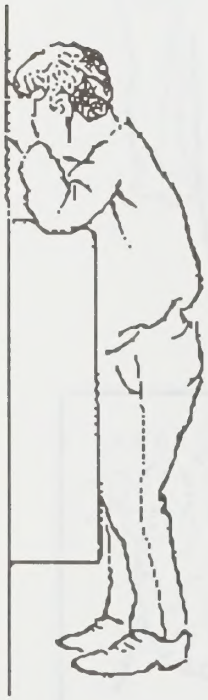
Another **sexually transmitted disease** is called **gonorrhea**. As with **syphilis**, **doctors** have known about **gonorrhea** for many years. **Gonorrhea** may cause many uncomfortable symptoms or signs of the **disease**. A **man** may **feel** pain when he **urinates**. A **woman** may have a strong smelling **vaginal discharge**.

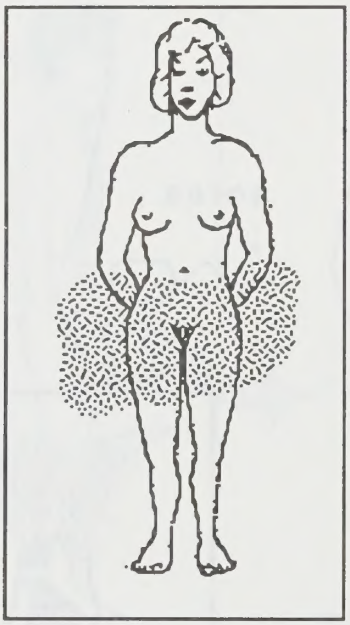


(A) man having gonorrhea may feel pain while urinating.

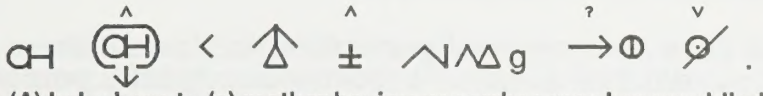


(A) woman having gonorrhea may have (a) strong smelling vaginal discharge.

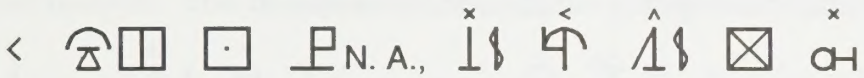




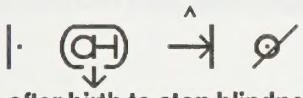
When a **baby** born to a **woman** with **gonorrhea** passes through the **vagina**, it may become blind from the germ that causes the **disease**. Today in **North America** the law requires that all newborn babies be treated to prevent this happening.



(A) baby born to (a) mother having gonorrhea may become blind.

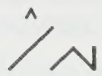


According to law in North America, doctors must treat all babies



after birth to stop blindness.

(To) Cure



(to destroy + illness + action indicator)

Today **doctors** can **treat** and **cure** most types of **gonorrhea** with penicillin or other antibiotics which are powerful medicines. A **doctor** can tell if a **person** has the **disease** by taking a swab or sample from the infected part of the body such as the **genitals** and looking at it under a microscope.

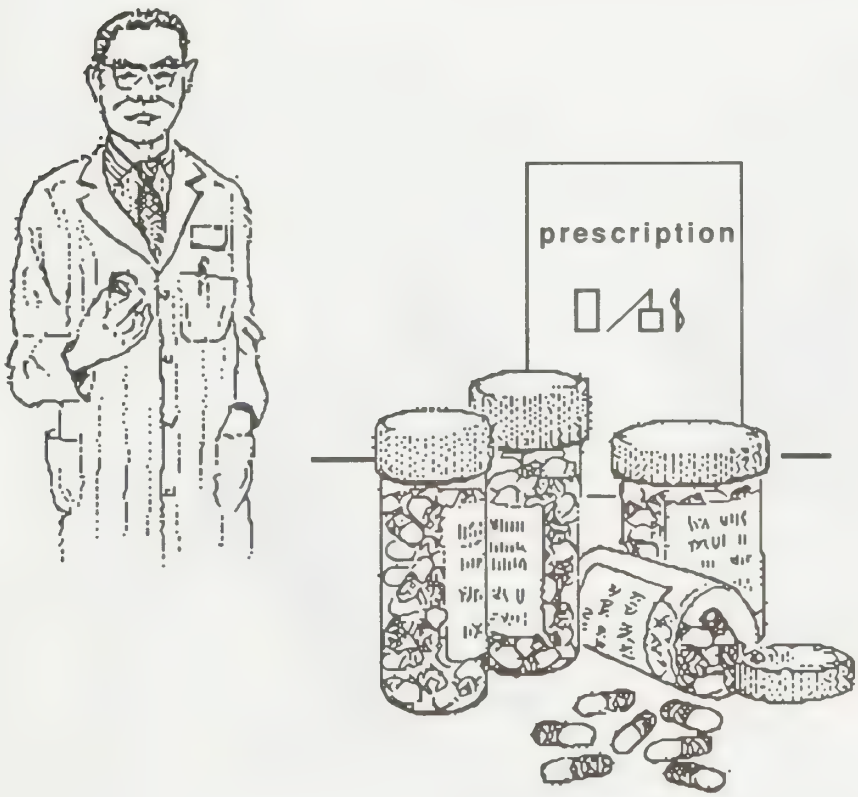
Today doctors can treat and cure most kinds (of) gonorrhea with powerful medicines.

Chlamydia

(sexually transmitted disease + c)

A more recently discovered **sexually transmitted disease** is called **chlamydia** in **women**, **non-gonococcal urethritis** or **N. G. U.** in **men**. As with **gonorrhea**, a **doctor** can take a swab from the infected body part to examine under a microscope. The **disease** can usually be **cured** with antibiotics.

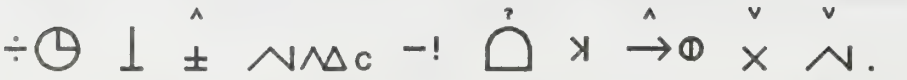
Doctors can treat and cure chlamydia with powerful medicines.



Infertile

(without + fertilization + description before the fact indicator)

Chlamydia is dangerous, because a **person** may be infected and not know it. Sometimes there are no signs. The **disease** can spread and cause more serious **illness** later on. It may make a **person infertile** or unable to conceive a child.



Sometimes (a) person having chlamydia may not know until becoming very ill.

Chlamydia may cause (a) person to be infertile.

Herpes

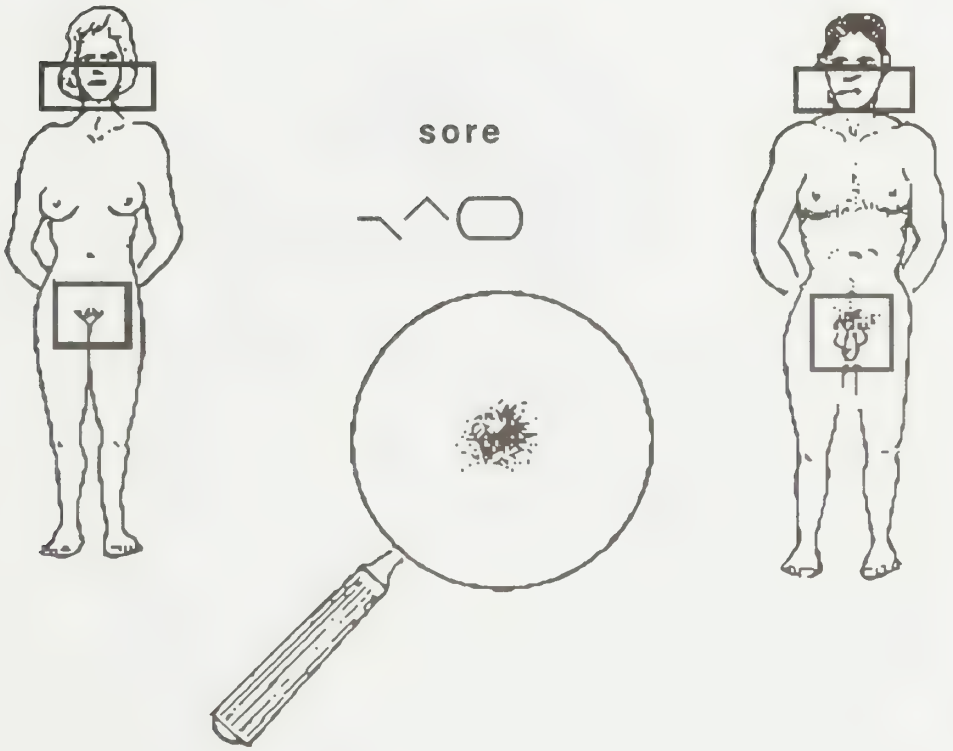
h

(sexually transmitted disease + h)

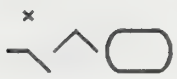
A recently discovered **sexually transmitted disease** is called **herpes**. **Herpes** causes **sores** on a person's mouth or **genitals**.

h .

Herpes causes sores on (the) mouth or genitals.

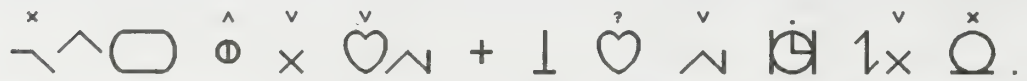


Sores



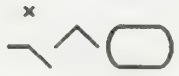
(break + skin + plural indicator)

The **sores** are very painful, and a **person** may **feel** sick for a few days.



(The) sores are very painful and (a) person may feel sick for (a) few days.

Sores



(break + skin + plural indicator)

After a week to ten days the **sores** heal but don't go away forever. They can come back anytime. Stress, changes in lifestyle, sunlight and other things will cause the **sores** to break out again.

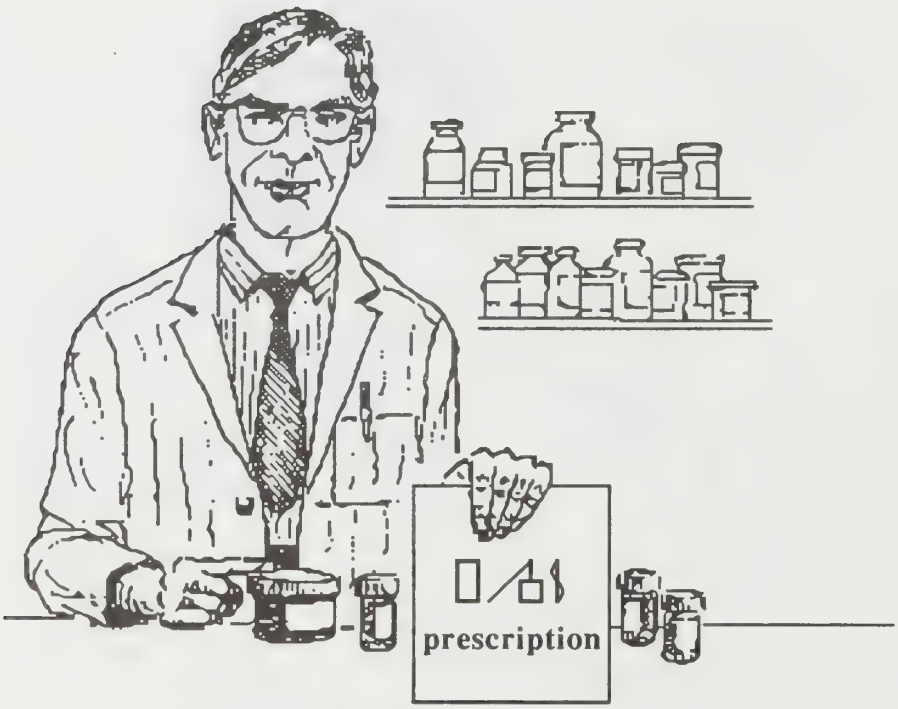
(The) sores disappear but may return anytime.

Medicines

(chemical product + medical + plural indicator)

There is no **cure** for **herpes**. A **doctor** may prescribe a cream or pills to shorten the length of time the **sores** appear, but they will come back.

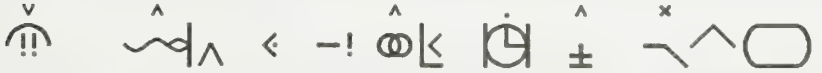
Doctors cannot cure herpes but medicines may help.



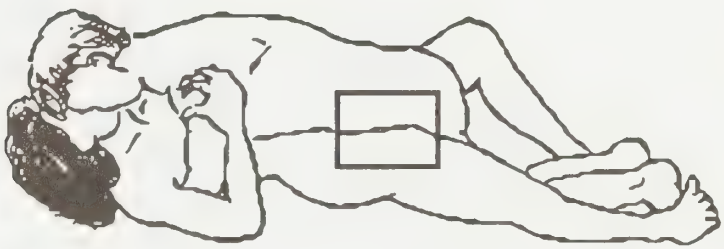
Condom

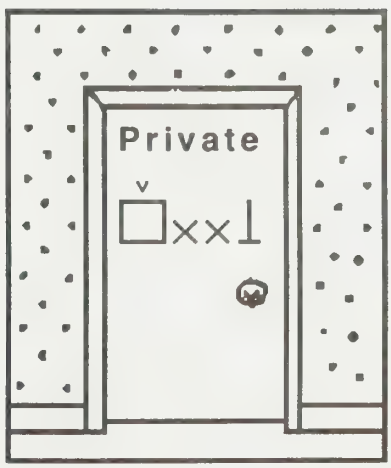
(barrier contraceptive + male)

It is **important** to use a **condom** or to refrain from **sexual intercourse** when the **sores** are present to avoid passing the **disease** to someone else.



Important - use (a) condom or do not have sexual intercourse while having (the) sores.





Birth

(baby + body + downward arrow [modified])

If a **woman** who has **herpes** has a **baby** when **sores** are present in her **vagina**, the **baby** may get **herpes** and die.

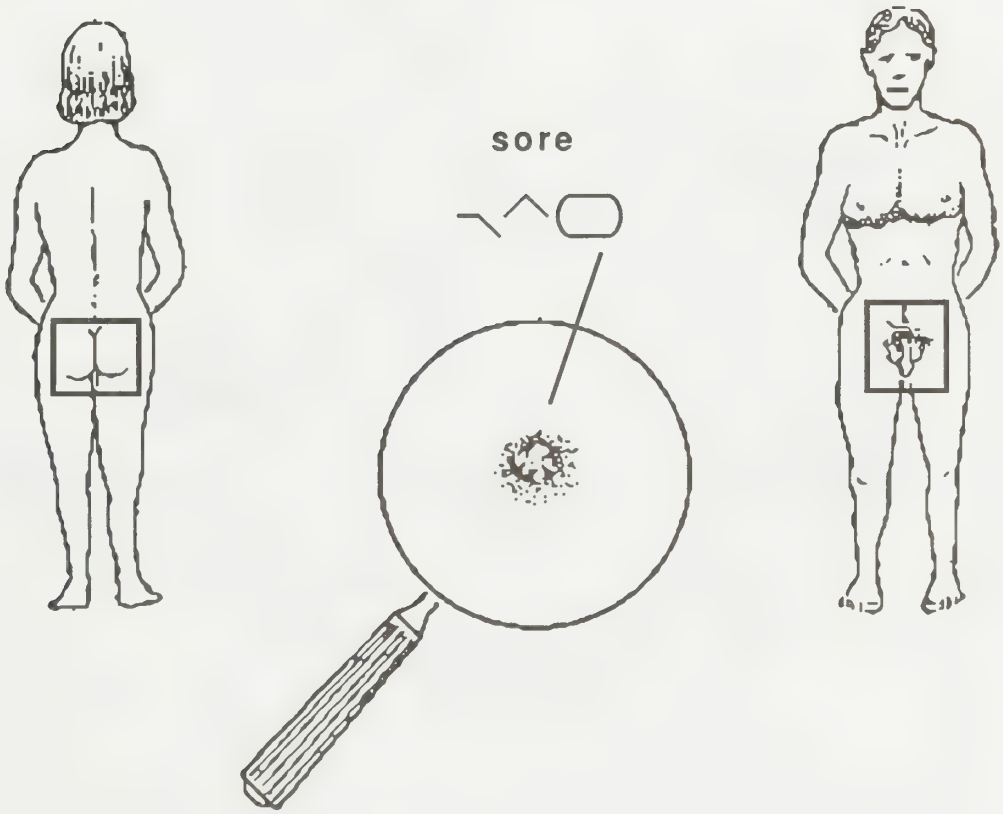
(A) baby born to (a) mother having (the) sores may get herpes and may die.

Venereal Warts

(dot + genitals + plural indicator)

Another recently discovered **sexually transmitted disease** is called **venereal warts** or **papilloma**. These are small white growths which may be located in the **vagina**, on the **vulva**, around the **anus** or on the **penis**.

Venereal warts are inside (the) vagina, on (the) vulva, near (the) anus or on (the) penis.



Doctor

(person + medical)

A **doctor** can remove them using chemicals, lasers (special light beams) or by freezing them with liquid nitrogen which is colder than ice.

(A) doctor can remove venereal warts.

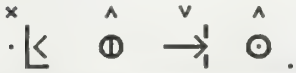
Cancer

(illness + c)

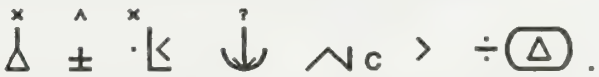
Cervix

(part of + uterus)

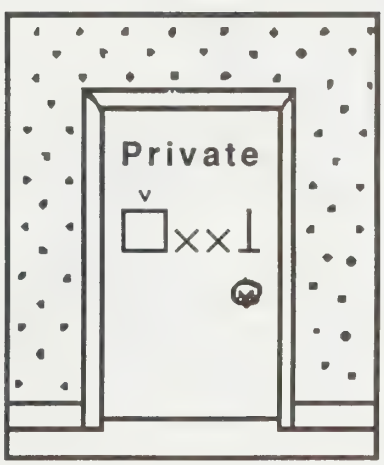
Unfortunately **venereal warts** are difficult to see, and for this reason a doctor may not be able to remove them all. **Women** who have them in their **vagina** or on their **cervix** have a greater chance of getting **cancer** of the **cervix**.



Venereal warts are difficult to see.



Women having venereal warts may get cancer of (the) cervix.



hepatitis B

hB

Another **STD** is **hepatitis B**. This may be passed from one **person** to another by **sexual** contact and by contact with an infected person's body fluids especially semen, vaginal fluids, saliva and blood. **Hepatitis B** is different from other **STDs** because a **doctor** can give an injection to prevent it.

hB

(A) person having hepatitis B can give the disease to another during sexual activity and

by their body fluids.

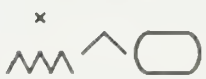
hB.

(The) doctor can inject (a) person against Hepatitis B.

Pubic Lice

(insect + genital + plural indicator)

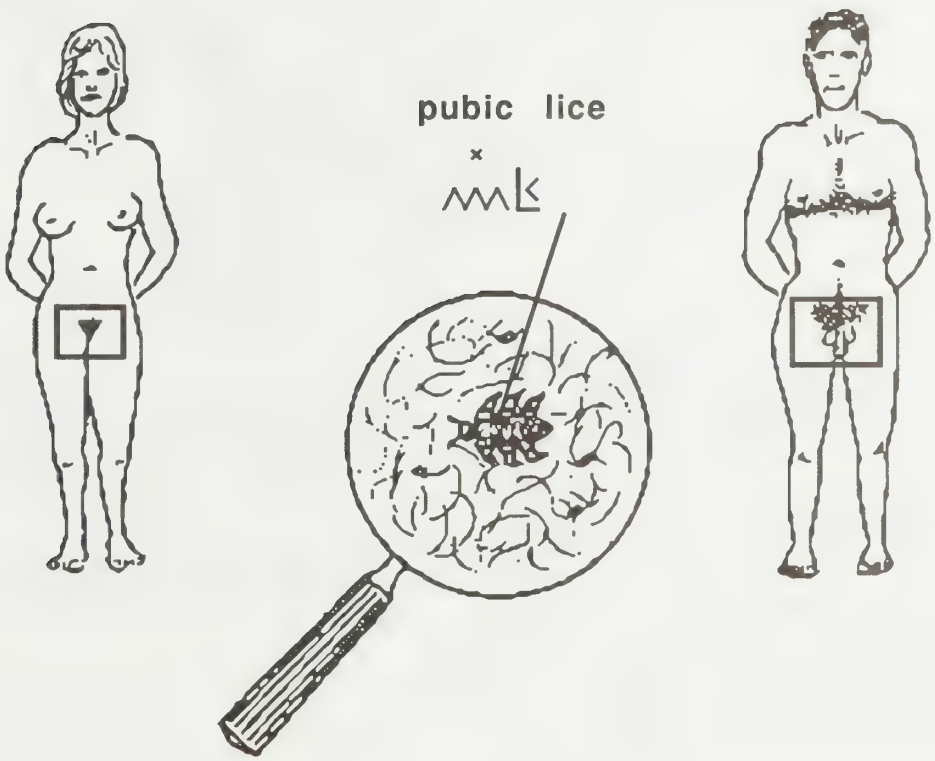
Scabies



(insect + skin + plural indicator)

A related **sexually** transmitted problem is the appearance of **pubic lice** or **scabies**. **Pubic lice** are small insects which attach themselves to **pubic hair**. **Scabies** are insects that burrows into the skin. Both can cause a **rash** or **itching**.

Pubic lice and scabies cause (a) rash or itching.



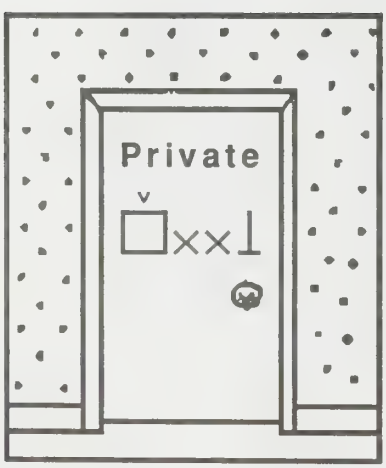
Sexual Activity

(activity + sexual)

A **person** infested with **pubic lice** or **scabies** will probably pass them on to **sexual partners**. They can also be spread through contact with infected linens and underwear.

(A) person may get pubic lice or scabies from sexual activity with another person,

from their sheets, towels or underwear.

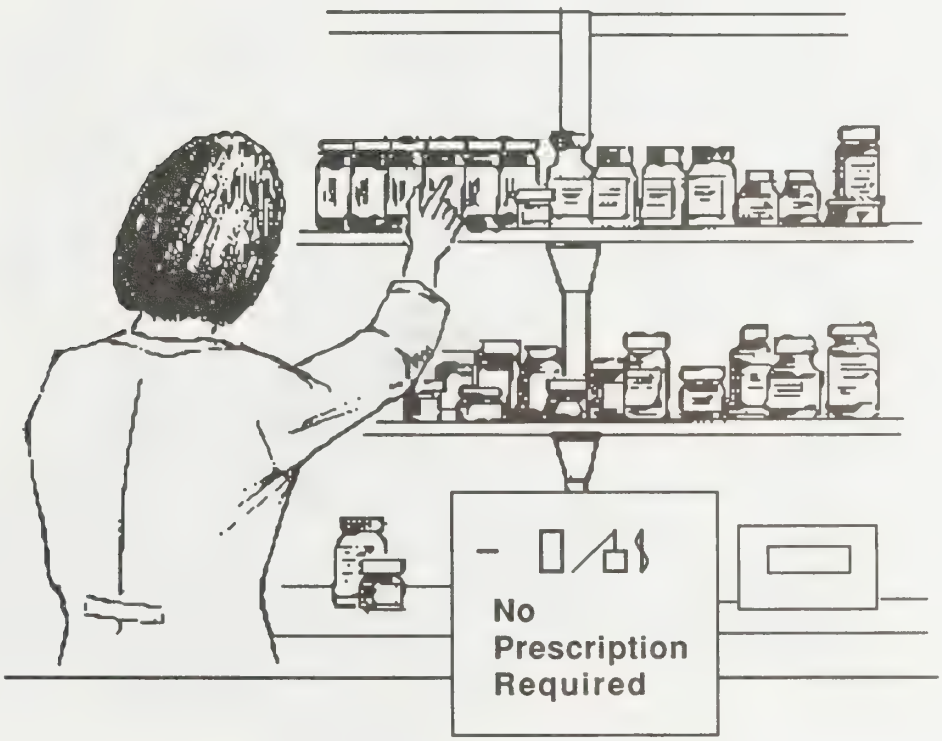


Medicines

(chemical product + medical + plural indicator)

Scabies or **pubic lice** can be successfully **treated** and **cured** with lotions which can be purchased at a drugstore. You do not need a **doctor's prescription** to buy them.

Drugstores sell medicines without (a) prescription to kill these insects.



Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

AIDS

(illness + AIDS)

The most recently discovered and most dangerous **sexually transmitted disease** is called **Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome** or **AIDS.** The **disease** can be transmitted by **sexual** contact and in other ways.

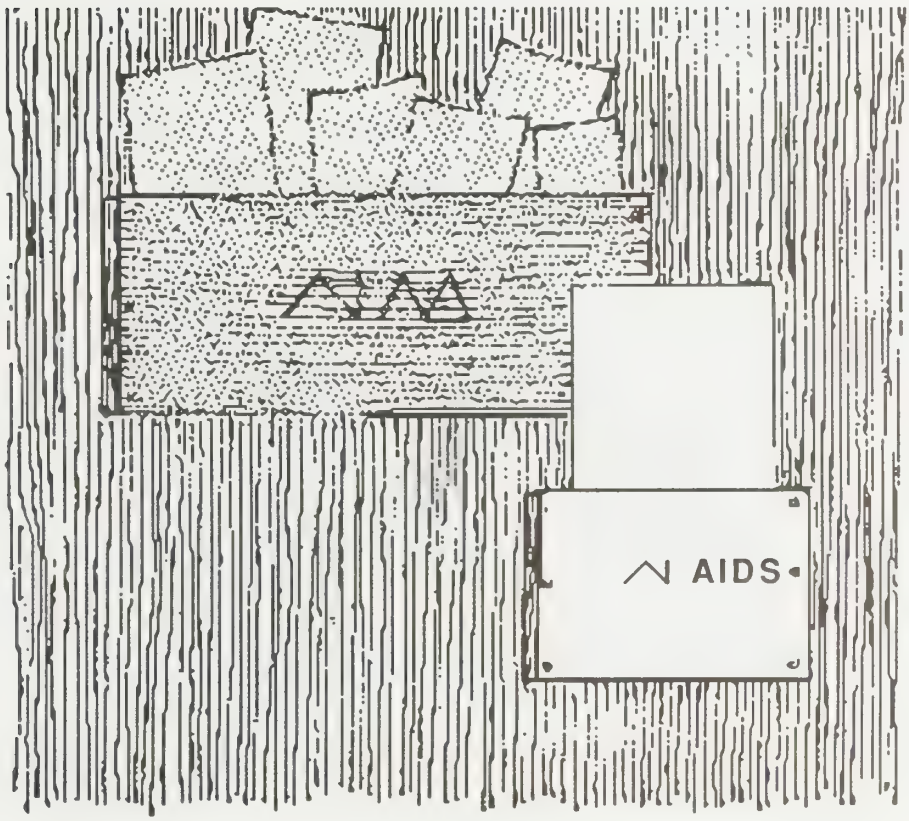
AIDS Φ ⧖ ⚠ .

AIDS is (the) most dangerous sexually transmitted disease.

Because **AIDS** is more dangerous and very different from other **sexually transmitted diseases**, there is a separate book in this series about it.

AIDS is very different (from) any other sexually transmitted disease.

Important - read (the) book about AIDS.



Doctor

(person + medical)

If you think that you have a **sexually transmitted disease**, it is very **important** that you see a **doctor** for **treatment**. You can go to your family **doctor** or to a **doctor** at a clinic for **sexually transmitted diseases**.

Important - go to (a) doctor if you think you have (a) sexually transmitted disease.

For certain **diseases** like **syphilis** and **gonorrhea** you will be asked to name all your **sexual partners** so that they can be **treated** too.

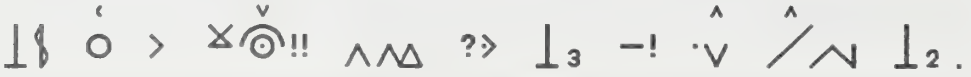
If you have syphilis or gonorrhea you must name sexual partners.

They must go to (a) doctor too.

Safer Sexual Activity

The **doctor** will tell you not to share **sexual activity** until you are **cured**. If there is no **cure** for your **disease**, the **doctor** will tell you how to practice **safer sexual activity**.

Important - do not share sexual activity until (the) doctor cures you.



(The) doctor will talk about safer sexual activity if he or she is not able to cure you.

Treatment

(help + medical)

Learning that you have a **sexually transmitted disease** can be very upsetting to you and your partner(s). A **doctor** or **nurse** can **help** you to discuss your feelings. It is **important** to get **treatment** for the **disease**, to follow the **doctor's** instructions and to avoid giving the **disease** to other **people**.

It is upsetting to learn you have (a) sexually transmitted disease.

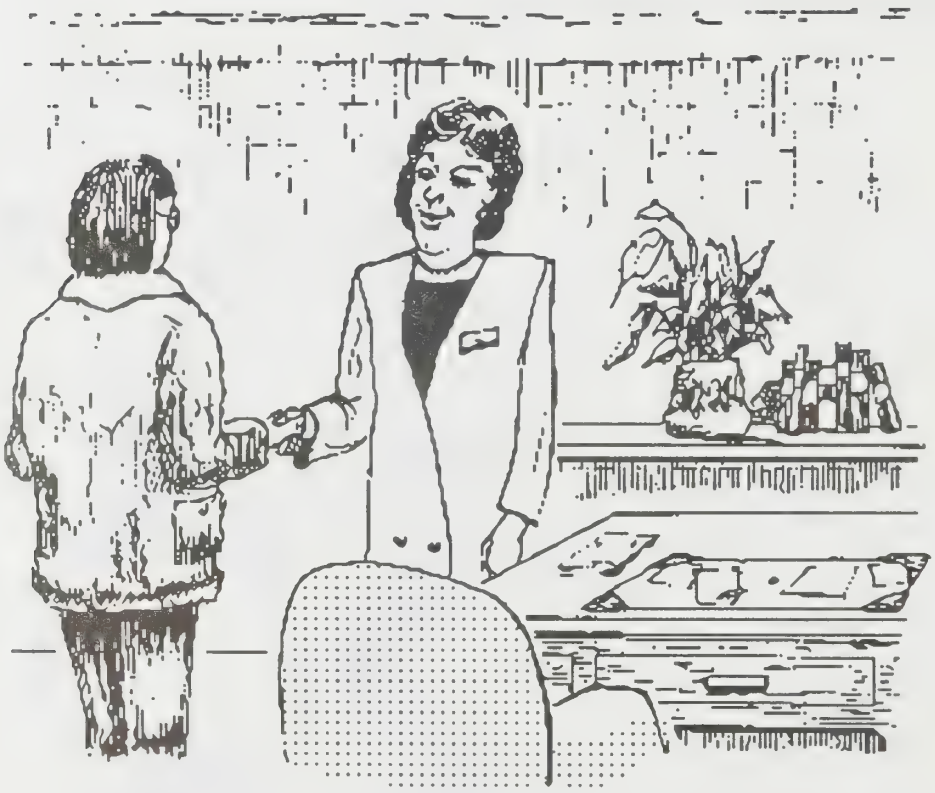
Important - you must go to (a) doctor or nurse for treatment.

Questions

(question mark + open + plural indicator)

If you have any **questions** about **sexually transmitted diseases**, find someone to answer them. It is very **important** that you understand this subject. The **person** who gave you this book may be able to **help** by giving you more information or by putting you in touch with an understanding **doctor** or **nurse**.

Important - choose someone to answer your questions about sexually transmitted diseases.



Glossary of Key Words and Blissymbols

adult	mature	(combination of flower *and* big + description indicator)	
anus		(opening + buttocks)	
baby		(child, turned on its side: a child too young to stand)	
birth		(baby + body + downward arrow [modified])	
cervix		(part of + uterus)	
condom		(barrier contraceptive + male)	
disease	see illness		
doctor		(person + medical)	
feel (to)		(feeling + action indicator)	
feeling	sensation	(symbol is the familiar heart shape: traditionally one's feelings are supposed to come from the heart, also used to represent sensation)	
genitals		(standing person + pointer, to genital area)	
help		(diagonal line + person: the person symbol appears to be helping the leaning line)	
illness	disease	(pictograph of a person with knees drawn up in pain)	
important		(mind + two intensity symbols + description indicator: of intense interest)	
infertile		(without + fertilization + description before the fact indicator: incapable of conception)	

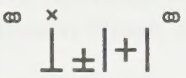
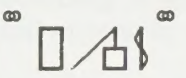
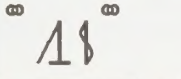
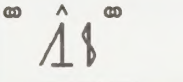
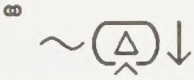
intercourse	see sexual intercourse		
intimacy		(feeling + close)	
man		(combination of person *and* male. The symbol can also be seen as a pictograph, a stick figure of a man wearing trousers with his legs apart.)	
mature	see adult		
medicine		(chemical product + medical)	
nurse		(person + protection + medical: person who gives medical care)	
penis		(standing person + pictograph of penis + pointer)	
people		(person + plural indicator)	
person		(the symbol suggests a human being standing, with feet turned out)	
pregnancy		(conception + woman)	
question		(question mark + open: the question is open-ended)	
safer		(more + combination of to observe *and* attention + description indicator)	
sexual		(sex + description indicator)	
sexual intercourse	intercourse	(to combine + genitals)	
sore		(break + skin)	
urinate (to)		(waste + genitals + action indicator)	

vagina		(uterus + pointer, to passage)	
vulva		(protection + vagina)	
woman		(a combination of person *and* female. The symbol can also be seen as a pictograph, a stick figure of a woman wearing a skirt.) also female	

Combined Symbol Glossary

The following symbols are normally enclosed within combine indicators ⌀ to show that they are not part of the Standard Blissymbol Vocabulary. Combine indicators were omitted in this series of books for esthetic reasons and to save space.

AIDS	(illness + AIDS)	⌀ ⌀ AIDS
body fluids	(liquid + body + plural indicator)	⌀ × ⌀
cancer	(illness + c)	⌀ ⌀ c
chlamydia	(sexually transmitted disease + c)	⌀ ⌀ c
cure (to)	(to destroy + illness + action indicator)	⌀ ^ ⌀
gonorrhea	(sexually transmitted disease + g)	⌀ ⌀ g
hepatitis B	(sexually transmitted disease + hB)	⌀ ⌀ hB
herpes	(sexually transmitted disease + h)	⌀ ⌀ h
itch (to)	(to cause + combination of to rub*and* finger + action indicator)	⌀ ^ ! ⌀
law	(to judge + book)	⌀ ⌀
North America	(country + N. A.)	⌀ N. A. ⌀
non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU)	see chlamydia	
papilloma	(dot + genital + plural indicator)	⌀ × ⌀

partners	(person + to share + plural indicator)	
prescription	(paper + medicine)	
pubic lice	(insect + genital + plural indicator)	
rash	(group of + dot + skin)	
scabies	(insect + skin + plural indicator)	
sexual activity	(activity + sexual)	
sexually transmitted disease (STD)	(illness + sexual)	
syphilis	(sexually transmitted disease + s)	
treatment	(help + medical)	
treat (to)	(treatment + action indicator)	
vaginal discharge	(liquid + vagina + down)	
venereal warts	(dot + genitals + plural indicator)	

Being Sexual: an illustrated series on sexuality and relationships

1 **Relationships**. Sexuality is explored in the context of relationships and validated as an important part of one's self-esteem. Co-authored by Claudia Wood, educator and Blissymbols Systems Coordinator. (31 pages)

2 **A Woman's Body.** Describes anatomy, how a woman's body functions sexually, and other aspects of being a woman. Issues of privacy and personal autonomy are introduced here and reinforced throughout the series. (47 pages)

3 **A Man's Body**. Describes anatomy, how a man's body functions sexually, and other aspects of being a man. (49 pages)

4 **Adolescence**. Describes the changes of puberty and adolescence and their influence on sexuality. (31 pages)

5 **Male Masturbation**. Describes masturbation and validates this as a choice for any man. Discusses fantasy as an aspect masturbation. (38 pages)

6 **Female Masturbation**. Describes masturbation and validates this as a sexual choice for any woman. (19 pages)

7 **Heterosexual Intercourse**. Describes sexual intercourse including sexual responsibility and mutual pleasuring. (25 pages)

8 **Human Reproduction**. Describes reproduction from fertilization to birth. Includes premature birth, Caesarian section, miscarriage and abortion. (25 pages)

9 **Birth Control**. Describes birth control options and suggests additional sources of information on contraception. (33 pages)

10 **Homosexuality**. Defines homosexuality and distinguishes it from homosexual behaviour. Suggests community resources for more information. (33 pages)

11 **Sexuality and Physical Disability**. Validates all people as being sexual. Discusses ways to achieve a satisfying sexual life in the presence of a physical disability. Co-authored by Michael Barrett, Chairperson, SIECCAN. (33 pages)

12 **Sexually Transmitted Disease**. Describes common STDs. Discusses symptoms, treatment and prevention. (30 pages)

13 **AIDS**. Explains how Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is transmitted and how it develops. Defines "safer sex". (27 pages)

14 **Sexual Self Advocacy**. Discusses the right to sexual expression. Suggests how people in residential settings might influence policies that guarantee that right. (25 pages)

15 **Sexual Abuse**. Defines abuse, exploitation, incest and molestation. Describes what may happen after abuse and disclosure. (43 pages)

16 **Sexuality and Aging**. Describes how sexuality and sexual expression may be affected by aging. (25 pages)

17 **Teaching Manual**. Outlines the philosophy and potential uses of the series. Explains the Blissymbols developed for the series. (18 pages)

Ordering information from: SIECCAN, 850 Coxwell Avenue, East York, Ontario M4C 5R1 (416-466-5304; 416-778-0785 FAX)

Blissymbolics Communication International customers can order directly from BCI, 250 Ferrand Drive, Don Mills, Ontario, M3C 3P2. (416-421-8377; 416-696-1035 FAX)